

Norway favours U.N. force for Gulf

ABU DHABI (AP) — Norway would contribute to a United Nations naval force if such a force were deployed to protect shipping in the war-torn Persian Gulf, a Norwegian official said Sunday. "We find the U.N. task force an interesting idea and if it becomes reality, we may consider our own contribution to such a mission," Kjell Rasmussen of the Norwegian Foreign Ministry told reporters in this southern Gulf port city. Mr. Rasmussen, head of a contingency planning group set up to oversee Norwegian ship attacks in the Gulf by warring Iran and Iraq, was in Dubai on the third leg of a Gulf tour which has earlier taken him to Kuwait and Bahrain. He is accompanied by a defence attaché from Norway's embassy in London. The visit followed the Dec. 10 Iraqi missile strike on the Norwegian-operated tanker *Sasagird* which had been on charter to Iran. The Norwegian captain and 20 Polish and Filipino crewmen died in the attack, the worst in the so-called Iran-Iraq tanker war. Iraq attacks Iran's shipping lanes to impede its war foe's oil exports, and force Tehran to accept a negotiated end to the seven-year-old conflict.

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Peres wants 'meaningful' talks

WASHINGTON (AP) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on Sunday called for "meaningful negotiations" between Israel and the Arabs to resolve the continuing protests in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Peres, interviewed on the ABC television news programme "This Week with David Brinkley," urged discussions to resolve the Palestinian protests. "I think what we have now to start is meaningful negotiations and I do believe that the negotiations will result with some solutions that nobody has suggested until now, because in addition to the partition of the land, you can have other solutions like a federation, a confederation, sharing the government," Peres said. "Look, let's face it. We are in a terribly complicated situation. There is no simple solution. Whoever will try to proceed the solution before the negotiations will fail," he said. The foreign minister urged directing all energy towards negotiations to end the Mideast conflict.

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Crown Prince meets Omani minister

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan received Oman's minister of state for defence, Al Mutasem Ibn Hmoud Al Bousaidi and discussed with him Jordanian-Omani relations in various fields. Prince Hassan and Mr. Bousaidi also reviewed issues of mutual interest and the recent developments in the region. Earlier on Sunday, Mr. Bousaidi visited the Fourth Royal Mechanised Division and the Martyr's Monument in South Shouneh.

U.S. delegation due on Jan. 6

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation of ten American Congressional staff members will arrive here on Wednesday Jan. 6 for three days of meetings with senior Jordanian officials. The Congressional legislative assistants will hear the views of Jordan regarding efforts for an international peace conference, trade and commerce issues, regional security concerns and the current situation in the occupied territories. The delegation will also visit Baqaa refugee camp. The host of the delegation's visit is the Arab Cultural Association of Amman headed by Mrs. Khawla Abu Odeh. Organising the visit is the Washington-based National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations. "This visit will enable the Congressional staff members to better understand Jordan's views and positions when they return to Washington and consider legislation that would affect Jordan," said Mr. Ron Cathell, executive director of the National Council.

Egyptian envoy to Kuwait dies

KUWAIT (R) — Egypt's new ambassador to Kuwait, Salahuddin Mohammad Hindawi, 47, died on Sunday of a heart attack, the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported. Mr. Hindawi took up his post on Dec. 6 after Kuwait restored diplomatic ties with Cairo after an eight-year break caused by Egypt's 1979 treaty with Israel.

Capucci seeks Jewish support for Palestinians

ROME (AP) — Greek Catholic Archbishop Hilarion Capucci marked the 13th day of a hunger strike in protest against Israeli actions against Palestinian protesters with a call for Jewish support of the Palestinian cause. The 65-year-old Capucci said Jews, "having for years known the tragedy of being wanderers and exiles," should be among the first to understand the Palestinian quest for a homeland, according to the Italian news agency AGI. The Syrian-born patriarch is conducting his strike at the Rome office of the Arab League.

Iran to fly 'drones' over Gulf

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran will fly pilotless reconnaissance planes over the Gulf after U.S. forces deployed similar "drones," an Iranian newspaper reported Sunday.

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Israeli soldier kills Palestinian housewife; occupation authorities order 9 Arabs expelled

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — An Israeli soldier shot dead a Palestinian housewife in fresh violence in the occupied West Bank on Sunday after Israeli said it was expelling nine Arabs from the occupied territories. The killing of Haniya Suleiman Zarawneh, 25, in the village of Al Rom near Jerusalem, was the first by soldiers in nearly two weeks. According to official Israeli count, troops killed 23 Palestinians last month in two weeks of anti-occupation protests in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Enam, a cousin of Ms. Zarawneh and who witnessed the killing, said a soldier fired at the woman from a short distance after chasing a boy demonstrator to their three-storey apartment house. "A single soldier was chasing a small boy... the boy ran into the house through a glass door and the soldier fired at the door," said Enam, pointing at two bullet holes visible in the glass door. Enam, who declined to give her last name for fear of reprisals, said the soldier tried to break in through another door and then ran around the house to a veranda where Ms. Zarawneh was busy hanging her washing. She said that the soldier apparently captured the boy and fired at Ms. Zarawneh after an argument in which she pleaded that the boy be released. "He apparently fired from a very close distance, two to three metres," she said.

On the veranda, where the washing was still hanging on a rope, a shoe of Ms. Zarawneh was seen lying, surrounded by several spots of blood. Relatives showed reporters an empty rifle cartridge.

Outside, some 50 Arab women were circling the house and shouting slogans. No Israeli troops were seen.

Enam said Ms. Zarawneh was still alive after the shooting. "She shouted: 'he killed me,' and clutched her throat," she said. Dr. Yasser Obeid, Ramallah Hospital's deputy director, confirmed the report. He said the woman was brought to the hospital dead, "shot through the left side of her chest."

"I understood from her family that a soldier was chasing a boy and opened fire. This woman was apparently washing clothes outside her house," said Dr. Obeid, reached by telephone.

About 100 men gathered at the village cemetery, some digging the grave, while others raised the Palestinian flag, burned tyres and erected roadblocks.

Also Sunday, the army clamped curfews on the Amari refugee camp that houses some 5,000 Palestinians near Ramallah, and on the Tulkarm refugee camp, home to about 10,000 Palestinians, the Palestine Press Service reported.

It said that the curfews followed protests at the two camps.

(Continued on page 3)



His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday attended meetings of an eight-member Arab ministerial committee entrusted with the task of reviewing and reorganising the work of various pan-Arab organisations (Petra photo)

Ministerial panel begins review of Arab organisations

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday attended part of the first meeting of an eight-member Arab League committee entrusted with examining the work and performance of pan-Arab organisations.

The first meeting was held at the Royal Court under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. The session was attended by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai.

The committee will discuss means of bolstering Arab economic cooperation and integration aimed at promoting solidarity among Arab countries, Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

The committee meeting comes in implementation of resolutions adopted by the Nov. 8-11 extraordinary Arab summit meeting held in Amman.

The committee, which is chaired by the Algerian finance minister, includes the finance or trade ministers of Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iraq, Kuwait, Morocco, Jordan and a representative of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee.

Taking part in the three-day meeting in Amman are several officials and economic experts in the Arab World, in addition to the director general of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development.

Dr. Hanna Odeh, minister of finance, and Mr. Mohammad Saqqaf, under-secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, attended Sunday's meeting.

King Fahd calls on U.N. to hold Middle East peace conference

KUWAIT (Agencies) — King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia has called on the United Nations to convene an international peace conference on the Middle East to solve the Palestinian problem, the Kuwaiti News Agency (KUNA) reported Sunday.

"The dangerous deterioration in the occupied lands requires the U.N. and the Security Council to shoulder their duties and solve the Palestinian problem not only through statements of condemnation but also by convening an international peace conference," King Fahd said.

His statement was contained in a message to the emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, KUNA said.

The king also called for the return of Jerusalem and other Israeli-occupied territories to Arab sovereignty, and for Palestinian self-determination.

Sheikh Jaber is chairman of the 46-nation Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), whose Jerusalem committee is due to meet

on Monday in Morocco to discuss the Palestinian protests in the occupied territories.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said Saturday that the United States recently approved the idea of convening an international peace conference on the Middle East.

Addressing a rally in Kuwait marking the 23rd anniversary of the creation of his Fatah movement, Mr. Arafat pledged to continue the Palestinian revolt in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. He said "weapons other than stones" would be used in future.

"We have received information that the United States has now approved the idea of convening an international peace conference... to be attended by all concerned parties including the PLO," Mr. Arafat told the gathering which was attended by Soviet Ambassador to Kuwait Ernest Zverev.

Also present were Arab and

East bloc ambassadors and more than 8,000 Palestinians and Arabs from among the large expatriate groups that work in Kuwait.

Turning to the occupied territories, Mr. Arafat said "the Palestinian command has taken a decision not to use arms during the present uprising in the occupied territories to avoid a massacre planned by the Zionist enemy."

"Our people are using stones at present, but they will use other weapons at the appropriate time in future," he added.

Drawing applause from the audience, Mr. Arafat said the current protests by the Palestinians reflected determination to regain their rights.

He recalled a statement by the late U.S. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles that "only one generation will remember Palestine and afterwards it falls into oblivion."

"I now tell Dulles that the third generation... did not forget Palestine," he said.

French go-between says Abu Nidal will free 2 girls

BEIRUT (Agencies) — French mediator Lucien Bitterlin left Lebanon for Libya on Sunday, saying he was assured by the Abu Nidal group that two French girls it holds would be freed before the end of January.

Mr. Bitterlin, head of a French pro-Arab lobbying group who flew to Beirut on Saturday, left for the Libyan capital of Tripoli via Rome before noon, Beirut airport officials quoted by AP said.

"I have had assurance that the two girls will be released before the end of January at the most," Mr. Bitterlin told reporters before boarding the Rome-bound Middle East Airlines jetliner.

"I haven't seen them but was emphatically assured that they are both in very good health," he added.

Mr. Bitterlin came to Beirut at the invitation of Abu Nidal's Fateh-Revolutionary Council (FRC) faction to play a role in releasing the French girls, Virginie, 5 and Marie-Laure, 6.

They have been held with their mother Jacqueline Valente, 30, and five other Belgians. The Abu Nidal group said on Nov. 8 that it had seized them aboard the French yacht *Silko* off the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip.

Mr. Bitterlin, a former Gaullist parliament deputy who currently heads the Franco-Arab Solidarity Association, met with Abu Nidal's representatives at west Beirut's Mar Elias Palestinian refugee camp shortly after his arrival in the capital Saturday evening.

Mr. Bitterlin said Saturday the girls and the other captives were in good health.

Cairo frees 26 held after Friday protest

CAIRO (R) — A prosecutor ordered the release on bail on Sunday of 26 Muslim fundamentalists arrested on Friday during violent anti-Israeli protests in Cairo.

The official Middle East News Agency (MENA) said bail for the 26 ranged from 20 Egyptian pounds (\$9) to 50 pounds (\$22). It said no formal charges had yet been laid and investigations were continuing.

Riot police baton-charged hundreds of militant Muslims who demonstrated on Friday against the killing of Palestinians by Israeli forces in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip during two weeks of anti-occupation protests last month.

Rifai rejects Peres' claim of 'document of understanding' with Jordan on peace talks

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai has denied a claim by the Israeli foreign minister that Jordan and Israel had drawn up a "document of understanding" on the modalities for an international peace conference on the Middle East.

Mr. Rifai, speaking in an interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and the Washington Post, also said the recent Palestinian protests in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip were only the beginning of uprising of a people refusing continued occupation. "We believe that as long as there is no peace process, as long as there is no chance of a settlement in sight, what happened in the West Bank and Gaza was only the beginning," the prime minister said in the interview, conducted by Samira Kassar.

Replying to other questions, Mr. Rifai said that contacts were underway at various levels between Syria and Iraq after the reconciliation between the leaders of the two countries at the Nov. 8-11 extraordinary Arab summit in Amman.

On Syrian moves in the Gulf, Mr. Rifai said he believed that the Syrians were briefing "the Gulf states as to the results of their contacts with the Iranians... focused on trying to limit the war and not to expand it and not allow to escalate."

On efforts to bring an end to the Iran-Iraq war through implementing U.N. Security Council Resolution 598, which Iraq has accepted and Iran has refused to abide by, Mr. Rifai said that during the recent visit to the Soviet Union by His Majesty King Hussein, the Soviet leadership informed Jordan that Moscow was willing to discuss with other members of the Security Council "on what action can be taken and must be taken in order to convince the Iranians that the only possible approach... is the acceptance of... Resolution 598."

Following is a transcript of the prime minister's interview with the BBC

and Washington Post. A recording of the interview was made available to the Jordan Times on Sunday.

Question: The recent violence or upheavals in the occupied Arab territories seem to have died down now. Is this part of the recurrent cycle of violence in periods of calm or are they going to be different in the occupied territories now as a result of the recent events?

Answer: We believe what has happened in the occupied territories in West Bank and Gaza was inevitable. The Palestinian people have reached a point where they cannot tolerate continued occupation any more. It is a very harsh occupation. It is not magnanimous by any means. The practices of the Israeli occupation authorities are driving the people to resist.

Question: What happened was a spontaneous reaction of a people, refusing continued occupation without any hope of any settlement in sight.

We believe that what happened is another proof of what is needed for the necessity of keeping the peace process alive and as we have declared time and again the only way to arrive at a peaceful settlement is with the convening of an international conference to be attended by all parties to the conflict, as well as the five permanent members of the Security Council under United Nations auspices to implement Security Council Resolutions 338 and 242. As a result of the heavy-handed and even merciless practices of the Israeli authorities where they even resorted to shooting young boys, the situation seems to be for the time being under control, but this is by no means indicative that calm will remain. We believe that as

long as there is no peace process, as long as there is no chance of a settlement in sight, what happened in the West Bank and Gaza was only the beginning.

Q: Do you see any indications of some Israeli politicians getting this message? For example, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres has been making statements to the effect that there is some sort of a document of understanding between Jordan and Israel on the modalities of the international peace conference. Is that true?

A: No. There is no such document. What happened was that when the United States was interested in the peace conference, the U.S. started discussing with us modalities, the role of the conference, its competence, its authority (and) representation in it. We agreed on some points, disagreed on others, and then when the Israeli government took such an extreme position against the international conference our talks with our American friends ceased and there have been no developments since then.

Q: Why then is Mr. Peres making this statement at this particular time?

A: I don't think this question should be addressed to me. Perhaps one should ask him. I don't know.

Q: So in other words there is no real movement as far as an initiative to convene an international peace conference is concerned at this time?

A: As you know, there are international unanimous support for the international peace conference. There is only one country that opposes the conference. That is Israel. And perhaps as a result of the Israeli position, the U.S. government has not taken a firm stand, a public position on the international conference, so at the moment there is no movement at all.

Q: If we could move to another subject, the results of the recent Arab summit in Amman. One of the major results was Arab consensus on the Iran-Iraq war, which Syria was part of. Have efforts to bring Syria and Iraq closer together progressed any further since the end of the summit?

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21, including 2 entire families, killed in Israeli raid on Lebanon

BEIRUT (Agencies) — At least 21 people were killed and 30 others wounded in Israeli air and naval attacks overnight and Israeli warplanes staged mock air raids Sunday, according to reports reaching here from the stricken areas.

Witnesses quoted by Reuter said the Israeli jets drew heavy anti-aircraft fire when they swooped over the Druze-controlled village of Barja, hardest hit in the overnight raids, as mourning residents searched for missing relatives.

Police and hospital sources said seven infants were among the Palestinians and Lebanese killed in the raids.

"It's a mass burial," said a 17-year-old Palestinian survivor whose father, mother and five brothers were killed. "All my family is buried there."

Three PSP militiamen and 12 members of two families were killed in Barja. Police said they were Khalil Mshafi, 57, a farmer, his 52-year-old wife, and their five sons and daughters aged between six and 19; and Issa Abdul Razzak, 36, a shoemaker, his wife, 30, and their three children aged between three and nine.

The one-storey house of each of the two families, about 500 metres apart, was demolished by missile hits, police said.

The night time raid, the first by Israel into Lebanon this year, left 21 people killed and 30 wounded at the teeming 'Ain Al Hilweh refugee camp near South Lebanon's port of Sidon and the adja-

cent Druze-controlled Shouf region, police said.

Lebanese police said a squadron of 12 fighter-bombers thundered in from the dark Mediterranean sky shortly before midnight Saturday to stage the three-pronged air assault.

As the population of 'Ain Al Hilweh rushed to bomb shelters, the jets illuminated the target areas with parachute flares and rocketed bases of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC).

A three-storey villa used by the PFLP-GC at a banana grove near 'Ain Al Hilweh was devastated by two rocket hits. Another two-storey headquarters was reduced to rubble in coastal Jiyeh and a third two-storey command post was wrecked on Barja's outskirts.

Barja, which took the brunt of the Israeli attack, is five kilometres inland from the Jiyeh harbour. Israeli officials contend that the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) has been using Jiyeh to smuggle Palestinians back to Lebanon.

Israeli jets and helicopter gunships also bombed Awali and Damour — PSP-controlled coastal areas with large Palestinian populations.

Security sources said the raids were apparently in revenge for a hang-glider attack by the PFLP-GC in November in which six Israeli soldiers died.

The assault on Barja flattened six houses and a two-storey building used as a base by the PFLP-

GC, which is led by Ahmad Jibril.

The PFLP-GC said in Damascus that three of its fighters were killed and six wounded.

In Tel Aviv, the Israeli military reported only the Sidon raid. It said targets included the headquarters of Fateh, largest group in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), and the PFLP-GC.

The attacks, which included coastal shelling by Israeli gunboats, heightened tensions between the PSP militia and the Christian-dominated Lebanese army.

The army and the PSP declared blockades of each other's ports on Saturday after the PSP refused to return a helicopter gunship in which a Druze air force officer deserted to PSP territory.

The Lebanese army kept up its blockade of PSP-held ports south of Beirut on Sunday but a shipping source said the tit-for-tat PSP blockade of rightist-held ports north of Beirut had had no effect.

A security source said the PSP, led by Transport, Tourism and Public Works Minister Walid Junblatt, lacked the means to enforce its blockade.

"They don't have a navy, radar or jets that would enable them to impose a blockade and detect ship movements," he said.

Mr. Junblatt rejected an army command ultimatum to return the missile-equipped Gazelle helicopter by sundown Friday, saying "I'd rather blow it up."

Dudin briefs British Labour leader on Israeli violations

AMMAN (J.T.) — The British Labour Party spokesman for foreign affairs, Gerald Kaufman, met here on Sunday with Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin for an exchange of views on Middle East affairs.

Mr. Dudin briefed the distinguished guest on the situation in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and the recent Palestinian uprising against the Israeli occupation authorities which resulted in the death of 53 people and the detention of hundreds of others.

The minister also spoke about the consequences of Israel's arbitrary measures against the Palestinians in the occupied territories and its attempts to force the Palestinians to abandon their homeland. He said these measures were flagrant violations of all international laws and principles.

Mr. Dudin emphasised that an

international effort is now needed to establish a just and durable peace in the region through an international peace conference.

Mr. Kaufman, who served as a cabinet minister under a Labour government, briefed Mr. Dudin on the outcome of his recent visit to the occupied territories.

Mr. Kaufman, who arrived here on Jan. 1, later paid a visit to the Baqa'a Palestinian refugee camp and met with notables there to whom he stressed the Labour Party's support for an international conference on peace in the Middle East. Accompanied by government officials and representatives of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), Mr. Kaufman toured the camp and inspected health and educational services.

Mr. Kaufman, a guest of the Foreign Ministry, is due to leave Jordan on Jan. 6.

Pakistani delegation departs after talks with Crown Prince

AMMAN (J.T.) — An 18-member delegation from the National Institute of Public Administration in Peshawar, Pakistan ended a six-day visit to Jordan on Sunday and left for home.

The delegation had visited the Civil Service Commission and other institutions in order to acquaint themselves with Jordan's public administration system.

Before their departure on Sunday, the delegation was received at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) by His Royal Highness

Crown Prince Hassan.

During the meeting Prince Hassan outlined the objectives of Jordan's Higher Council on Science and Technology, stressing the importance of exchanging the results of scientific research conducted by Jordanian and Pakistani institutions. The Crown Prince also called for the opening of more channels for the exchange of scientific and technological information between the two countries.

Medical union urges int'l support for Palestinian struggle

AMMAN — Dr. Hassan Khreis, general secretary of the Pan-Arab Medical Union, on Sunday sent cables to the secretary-general of the United Nations and leaders of international human rights and relief organisations urging their support for the struggle of the Palestinian people living under Israeli occupation.

Following is the text of the message:

Marking the end of the year 1987 as the International Year for Solidarity with the Palestinian People, the Pan-Arab Medical Union calls for your most esteemed person and organisation to support by all means possible the just struggle of the Palestinian people against the Israeli military occupation and towards the realisation of their basic human rights of self-determination and national independence.

In the course of this struggle, the recent uprising in Palestine has been faced with fascist, inhuman measures by occupying troops. These measures resulted in the killing of tens of Palestinians and the wounding of many others.

The repressive measures have included: arresting hundreds, besieging camps by denying them water, food and medical supplies and threatening to expel many Palestinians from their homeland.

We call upon you to denounce all these inhuman measures which are taken against the laws and will of our civilised international community.

We are sure that the will of the Palestinian people to realise their final aims will be strengthened by your most valuable support.

Facsimile services for public

AMMAN (Petra) — Arrangements have been made for providing electronic postal services (facsimile) to the public as of the beginning of next month, according to Abdullah Al Jazi, secretary-general of the Ministry of Communications.

Dr. Jazi said that, initially, facsimile facilities will be installed in 15 post offices in Amman and other governorates, but that these services will gradually be provided to other areas, as well.

Israeli soldier kills Arab housewife

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In the occupied Gaza City, protesters burned tyres and threw stones at passing cars and at the Arab shops, forcing them to close, an Arab witness said. He said some 30 Israeli troops chased the protesters and arrested about 15 of them.

The protests came after an army announcement of deportation orders issued Sunday against nine Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The army described the nine as senior activists in Palestinian groups and said some were ringleaders in the recent protests.

The orders were issued despite appeals by U.S. officials who have said deportations violate international law and could reignite protests in the occupied territories.

On Sunday, the army decided to release without trial some 100 Palestinians who were detained during the protests. The detainees were released "after giving assurances that they would not return to their ways," the army said in a statement.

The army statement said the nine Palestinians ordered expelled — five from the West Bank and four from the Gaza Strip — were "leading activists and organisers involved in incitement and subversive activity."

Jordan and Egypt have vowed

to foil Israel's expulsion of Palestinians from the occupied territories.

In Amman, an official spokesman on Sunday reaffirmed that Jordan would take "all necessary measures to foil the Israeli plan."

In Kuwait, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said Sunday he had asked Egypt, Jordan and Syria to block the planned Israeli expulsion of nine Palestinians.

"I have asked the Egyptians, Jordanian and Syrian brethren to close their borders to prevent Israelis from carrying out their conspiracy of deporting the Palestinians," Mr. Arafat told reporters as he left Kuwait at the end of a two-day visit.

"I received assurances from Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon that they were determined to resist this dangerous step by not accepting any deported Palestinians," Mr. Arafat said. He did not describe the Syrian response.

The PLO has also urged Egypt on Sunday to close the Israeli embassy in Cairo.

Yasser Abed Rabbo, a PLO spokesman, also said in Tunis the PLO had formally asked the foreign ministers of the 21-member Arab League to meet to discuss Israeli action against Palestinian demonstrators in the West Bank and Gaza.



Her Majesty Queen Noor, accompanied by Minister of Health Zaid Hamzeh, on Sunday presents a diploma to and congratulates a nursing college graduate (Petra photo)

AFM hits record high in value of traded shares in 1987

'Plans underway to curb insider trading'

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Amman Financial Market, which hit a record high in the value of traded shares in 1987, is in the process of adopting measures aimed at reducing insider trading in stocks and enhancing investors' confidence, the market's general manager said on Sunday.

Hashem Sabbagh told a press conference that the stock exchange has also proposed an amendment to the Jordanian Companies Law, to be introduced later to the Lower House of Parliament, which would oblige companies to disclose their financial statements on a semi-annual basis rather than through the traditional annual report.

"We need more frequent information about the companies' financial standing," Dr. Sabbagh pointed out, referring to the amendment of the companies law which, he said, has already been approved by the government.

Speaking on the occasion of the stock market's 10th anniversary, Dr. Sabbagh told reporters that the stock exchange was "asking companies to adhere to the rules in order to cut down on insider trading." He said that the stock exchange "has done a great deal in that direction."

Dr. Sabbagh pointed to practices by some brokers which do not comply with the market's regulations, such as charging commission fees higher than the set percentage. He said this problem would be curbed this year by "better auditing of their (brokers') books."

Dr. Sabbagh said the value of shares traded in the regular and parallel markets in 1987 reached an all-time high of JD 148 million compared to JD 70 million in

1986. He attributed the increase in trading to the government's policy of subsidising national industry through protectionism and its creation of foreign markets for Jordanian industrial products. He added that incentives offered by the government to local industries has encouraged investment, in addition to recent mergers and new financial policies aimed at revitalising the economy.

Dr. Sabbagh expected the new government measures, enhanced by political and economic stability, to increase Arab and foreign investments in the Kingdom's economic institutions.

He revealed that foreign (non-Arab) investment in the Amman Financial Market last year reached more than \$5 million. He said foreign interest began in late 1986 and increased in 1987. "This is an indication of the beginning of Arab and foreign capital flow towards investment in Jordan. The process appears to be accelerating," Dr. Sabbagh added.

Average daily trading at the stock exchange, increased from JD 19,000 in 1978 to JD 615,000 in 1987. Dr. Sabbagh said that in 1978, 11 companies floated JD 11.9 million worth of shares, compared to JD 343.9 million by 121 companies in 1987. He said that securities floated by public institutions and companies were JD 5 million in value in 1978, compared to JD 114 million in 1987. In addition, development bonds rose from JD 10 million in 1978 to JD 138.5 million in 1987, thus bringing the total figures from JD 21.9 million in 1978 to JD 596.4 million in 1987.

Figures on the "secondary" market reflect a growth in activity in the past ten years, with an increase in trading from JD 5.6 million in 1978 to JD 148.2 mil-

lion in 1987. The market value of shares in the same period rose from JD 776.289 million to JD 1,034.256 million. Outside trading rose from JD 4.1 million to JD 18.3 million in the same period.

Describing the stock market in Jordan as "a market of expectation," Dr. Sabbagh said that increased trading over the last quarter was prompted by growth in the construction and transport sectors. He said the industrial sector traded shares amounted to JD 93 million out of the total JD 148 million. He attributed this large number to "sound government policies."

Dr. Sabbagh pointed out that growth in the transport and construction sectors was bound to reflect positively on the banking, finance and insurance industries. He told the press conference he expected better trading in shares this year.

The financial market general manager urged Arab investors to "reconsider their investment priorities" by rechanneling their capital into the Arab World rather than foreign stock markets. He said incidents such as the Oct. 19 Wall Street crash "should provide proper incentive."

Dr. Sabbagh said that the Amman Financial Market was insulated from shocks suffered by other international equities markets, but that a global recession would undoubtedly affect stock markets in all developing countries. The number of Jordanian investors in the Amman Financial Market increased from 181,000 in 1978 to 611,000 in 1987.

Dr. Sabbagh said that profits on shares are exempt from taxation, that cash dividends average six per cent of share prices and that the average price-earnings ratio was one to 12.

Rifai rejects Peres' claim of 'document of understanding'

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As the results of the summit were very positive regarding every issue that was discussed and one of the major items was the unified Arab position regarding the war in the Gulf. This of course implies relations between Syria and Iraq. As you know, after the summit, the propaganda attacks between the two countries ceased, there have been direct contacts between them. We believe that matters are moving slowly but surely and in the right direction towards normalisation of relations between the two countries.

Q: When you speak of direct contacts, at what level are such contacts taking place?

A: At various levels. As you know, a Syrian trade delegation went to Iraq. We understand there have been contacts regarding bilateral issues. I believe that such contacts are taking place at various levels, and we are sure this is going to continue because what was decided at the summit was decided by agreement between all Arab countries, including Syria and Iraq, and nothing has changed since then to make us believe that the determination to overcome their differences will not continue to be so.

Q: Syria seems to be engaged in some sort of mediation effort between the Arab Gulf countries on one hand and Iraq on the other. Does this fall within the acceptable limits of the newly achieved consensus on the Iran-Iraq war and will that not be an obstacle to the improvement of relations between Syria and Iraq?

A: I do not know if mediation is the right word. You know, there have been contacts between the Syrians and the Iraqis regarding the escalation of the war and the situation in the Gulf and it was agreed by the summit that any contacts with Iran should not be kept secret and that the concerned Arab countries should be informed of them. And I believe what is happening now is that our Syrian brothers are briefing the Gulf states as to the results of their contacts with the Iraqis which are all focused on trying to limit the war and not expand it and not allow it to escalate, and

when we say the war, we are not only talking about the Gulf but also regarding Iraq and Iran.

Q: In other words, the Syrian role is part of what the Arabs envisage as the effort to limit the war and to stop it. It is not something that the Syrians are doing on their own and they are not out of line?

A: There was no Arab decision to ask the Syrians to do anything in particular, but some Arab countries still maintain relations with Iran and every Arab country is doing all it can in its own way for the joint common Arab purpose or drawing this war to an end. This of course requires a change in the Iranian position. Iraq is ready for a peaceful settlement and they have made a number of peace initiatives and they have responded positively to U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 and the Iraqis so far refused to accept the implementation of that resolution. That is why we support further action by the Security Council and to impose an arms embargo on Iran or using any other means to convince the Iraqis of the necessity of accepting Resolution 598 and putting an end to this war.

Q: During His Majesty King Hussein's latest visit to the Soviet Union, did the Soviets indicate that they were willing to be part of an international effort that would put sanctions on Iran to get it to accept Resolution 598?

A: The Soviet government has informed us that instructions have been issued to the Soviet permanent representative at the United Nations to commence consultations with the other members of the Security Council to agree on that action can be taken and must be taken in order to convince the Iraqis that the only possible approach toward a peaceful settlement is the acceptance of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598.

Q: What would you say the most important result of the King's visit to Moscow was?

A: His Majesty was invited to visit the Soviet Union. When he went, His Majesty did not only represent Jordan but also carried with him the results of the summit in Amman in his capacity as president of the summit. He conveyed to the Soviet Union the unified Arab position that was arrived at in Amman. We found that the Soviet position regarding the war in the Gulf and regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict and the international peace conference to be almost identical to the Arab/Jordanian position.

Q: Does this visit signal that Jordan is drawing closer to the Soviet Union, perhaps at the expense of its relation with the United States?

A: Jordan has always maintained very good relations with the two superpowers as well as with the other countries all over the world — in Europe, in the non-aligned world, in the Muslim countries, in Latin America and in Africa. Therefore we do not look at improvement of relations with one country as an event that it is necessarily at the expense of another country. We maintain excellent relations with the Soviet Union and we have good relations with the United States.

Q: Did Jordan conclude any deal with the Soviet Union to buy aircraft or any other weapons during this visit?

A: We did not conclude any deals. We discussed a variety of bilateral issues, but we did not arrive at any final agreements.

Q: Lastly, there have been reports that a joint Jordanian-Egyptian force might be sent to the Gulf to help the Arab Gulf countries to defend themselves against possible Iranian attack. Is there any truth in those reports?

A: Jordan considers the security of the Gulf states as part of its security and Jordan is also a signatory to the Arab Joint Defence Pact. Of course, if we are asked to help the Gulf states in defending themselves against any attack from anywhere, we will do everything possible to help them. This has always been our position, but until this moment we have not had any request for help.

Q: However, if you did receive such a request, Jordan would be willing to send military advisors or troops or whatever is required?

A: We hope the situation will not arise, but if there is such a need we will do everything possible to help in every way we can.

Queen Noor graduates 205 nurses; Hamzeh points to need for more nursing colleges

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor on Sunday attended the graduation of 205 nurses from the Jordan Nursing College and other nursing institutes in the Kingdom and distributed diplomas to the graduates and special awards to those excelling in their courses.

In his opening address at the ceremony held at the Al Hussein Youth City Minister of Health Zaid Hamzeh expressed appreciation to the Queen for her attendance at the ceremony and her service to Jordanian society.

Dr. Hamzeh spoke about public awareness of the importance of nursing in Jordan's health services system.

While he noted that there has been an increase in the number of students studying nursing, Dr. Hamzeh emphasised that the country needs more nurses and midwives to cope with the growing need for their services. The minister explained that Jordan now has five nursing colleges, three of which are run by the Ministry of Health, but the number of graduates falls short of the Kingdom's needs.

Dr. Hamzeh said that in order to eliminate this shortage, the country requires more nursing colleges, as well as an institute for training nursing instructors. He said that the first institute of this kind would be operational in a few weeks.

The minister also said that the Health Ministry plans to open

new nursing colleges in Karak, Salt and other towns and to expand the existing colleges.

Dr. Hamzeh said that hundreds of nurses are needed to fill posts at health centres, mothers and child care centres and hospitals, and to assist in spreading health education in homes, especially on first aid and child care.

The minister denied that the foreign nurses are given preference in employment or higher wages than the local nurses and voiced appreciation to those friendly countries which supply Jordan with qualified nurses.

The ceremony was attended by a number of Parliament and Cabinet members, the wives of the prime minister and the governor of Amman, university presidents, senior Health Ministry officials and several members of diplomatic missions, in addition to relatives of the graduates.

Cabinet retires six senior PSD officers

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet on Sunday decided to refer a number of senior Public Security Department officers to pension as of Jan. 16, 1988.

The officers are: Major-General Sami Al Saket, Major-General Issa Al Omari, Major-General Mohammad Obeidat, Major-General Ahmad Abu Al Saud, Major-General Ghalib Al Dmour and Brigadier Mousa Suweilem Lutfi.

The Cabinet also approved the draft protocol due to be concluded with the Italian government. Under the protocol, Italy will provide technical assistance to Jordan to help it restore the

Roman ruins at Jerash.

Also on Sunday, the Cabinet decided to renew the membership of the Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation's (JIEC) board of directors.

The board includes: Dr. Mahdi Farhan, director-general of the Social Security Corporation; Dr. Adnan Badran, secretary-general of the Higher Council of Science and Technology; Dr. Ziad Fariz, secretary-general of the Ministry of Planning; Dr. Mohammad Hourani, director-general of the Cities and Villages Development Bank; Dr. Mansour Al Otum, director of Employment Depart-

ment at the Ministry of Labour and Social Development; and Mr. Munther Al Saudi from the Pension Fund.

In addition, the Cabinet approved the appointment of Mr. Adnan Faraj from the Arab Centre for Pharmaceutical Industries to the JIEC's board of directors.

Meanwhile, the Prime Ministry on Sunday issued a circular calling on all parties concerned to support local contractors. The circular said that tenders for projects financed by foreign loans and grants should be divided into several tenders with values not exceeding JD 500,000.

Study urges greater safety measures to reduce occupational injuries

AMMAN (Petra) — A study conducted by the Ministry of Labour and Social Development, the Social Security Corporation and the Workers Health and Safety Institute has recommended that all public and private sector companies and factories set up safety committees and appoint supervisors to handle occupational hazards.

The study, which was designed to estimate the cost of occupational injuries, said that safety equipment and training should be provided to the workers so that the number of injuries and their cost can be reduced.

Factories and companies ought to create a more convenient and safer environment for the workers, so as to help them avoid injuries, the study noted.

According to Abdul Rahim Abdul Jabbar, director of the Workers Health and Safety Institute, the study which was conducted over a period of seven months under the supervision of Mr. Abdul Jabbar, revealed that

the indirect cost of injuries sustained by workers was JD 91,653, almost four times the direct cost of injuries estimated at JD 22,454. "This shows clearly the extent of damage done to society as a result of occupational injuries," Mr. Abdul Jabbar pointed out.

The study suggested that all companies and factories set up health centres or clinics to provide sufficient medical care to workers and administer first aid to those injured.

Employment of physicians at these enterprises would also reduce the number of unemployed doctors in the Kingdom, the study said.

It said that the workers should be allowed to attend seminars and courses on protecting themselves from occupational injuries.

The study also urged inspectors from the Ministry of Labour and Social Development to make regular visits to the companies and factories to ensure that they abide by safety measures.

According to the study, most of the injured workers are young people between 25 and 29 years old — with low incomes.

The study surveyed 4,738 workers, 170 of whom had suffered injuries on the job. The study revealed that 22.28 per cent of the injuries affected the eyes, followed by legs and feet at 15.22 per cent, and hands, at 13.04 per cent.

It also noted that some of the victims suffered multiple injuries due to handling equipment, falling, contact with chemical substances, fires, explosions, electric shocks or cave-ins.

Some of the injuries were in the form of bruises, fractures and burns which led to bleeding and, in some cases, to death, the study said.

Mr. Abdul Jabbar said that the study was needed to determine the actual cost of the occupational injuries, which affect the productivity of companies and factories and, hence, the health of the national economy.

TCC to float int'l tenders worth JD 100m

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) will, as of February, begin floating international tenders worth a total of JD 100 million for projects designed to promote the Kingdom's telephone services, TCC Director-General Mohammad Shahed Ismail announced on Sunday.

Mr. Ismail said that the private sector will be invited to contribute to the implementation of these projects, which will be carried out in stages and will cover 591 towns and villages.

The projects entail installing automatic telephone exchanges and nearly 100 new buildings to house the electronic equipment and microwave stations.

By announcing international tenders, the TCC hopes to attract the best and most experienced world systems, to improve performance and to benefit from competition among international firms, Mr. Ismail said.

He said that at least new 55 microwave stations will be built and an additional 219,000 telephone lines created through these projects.

British Airways introduces new service for business travellers

AMMAN — British Airways has unveiled a major new £25 million investment aimed at enhancing its worldwide business travel products.

The airline's aim is to attract a greater number of business flyers, who already make up a quarter of its passengers and provide approximately £1 billion a year in revenue.

British Airways' entire inflight service is being reexamined to keep the airline ahead of competitors and to reinforce its position as market leader in all classes of travel.

The main features of Club World and Club Europe include new separate aircraft cabins, new seats on long-haul aircraft, new airport lounges and a comprehensive range of other innovations.

Sir Colin Marshall, chief executive of British Airways, called the multi-million pound project "a new mark of respect for business travellers."

From Jan. 5, the present Super Club on intercontinental routes will be superseded by Club World — a service tailored to the lifestyle of the long-haul business traveller in the 1990s.

At the same time, services for 6,000 Club Class passengers every day in Europe will be radically improved with the birth of Club Europe.

Seating comfort was a prime

requirement and interior layouts on almost all the airline's 166-plus aircraft are being reconfigured to offer more legroom. Fixed partitions to create separate, exclusive cabins will replace the present movable curtain dividers between Club and Economy classes on all flights. Express check-in, valet parking, swifter baggage delivery, priority reservations lines and a host of other improvements tailored to customer needs are being introduced. Target customers for Club World are the world's most frequent business flyers — usually men in the 40's, in very senior positions and in the top one per cent of income earners. They fly on business more than 20 times a year and know what rival airlines offer.

To cater to these valued customers, design consultants went back to basics to produce an "understated, contemporary style reflecting the intelligent thoughtful nature of service," right down to the finest detail, even baggage tags. Leading young British artists were picked to illustrate menus, and inflight duty free goods include items chosen for uniqueness and looks.

British Airways will introduce Club World and Club Europe to its esteemed business clients in Jordan with a reception this afternoon at the Marriott Hotel in Amman.

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No thanks, Mr. Peres

THERE IS obviously a veiled threat in Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres' new year's remark in London to the effect that the alternative to entering into negotiations with Jordan under United Nations auspices is to open negotiations with the PLO, outside the purview of the proposed international peace conference. The question is, for whom is this admonition intended? If it is directed against Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and his Likud bloc in a bid to make him hurry up and engage the Arabs in negotiations under U.N. auspices, then clearly it fell on deaf ears. Shamir and company are determined not to budge on their rejection of the international peace conference, come what may. If Peres' threat is intended for Jordan in the form of a decoy to stampede it into precipitous negotiations under the U.N. umbrella, without the presence of the PLO and the other concerned Arab parties, then it is also doomed to go nowhere.

In either scenario, the Israeli foreign minister is using the PLO as some sort of a bogey-man to be feared by Jordan and Israel, and to be kept at arm's length by both parties. Unfortunately for Peres and Shamir, and despite occasional differences of opinion among Arab parties, Jordan is totally and clearly committed to engage in negotiations with Israel only under U.N. auspices and with the participation of the PLO and the other directly concerned Arab states. No amount of trickery or semantics would make Jordan waver in its national commitment to this position, which is based on deep conviction and on the edifice of the latest Arab summit in Amman. Jordan's position is an honourable position based on Arab resolutions adopted unanimously in the heart of its own capital; no ploy will change Jordan's unambiguous stand on the lawful means to address the Arab-Israeli conflict, and notably the Palestinian issue, under the aegis of the U.N. Security Council.

No thanks, Mr. Peres, for trying to drive a wedge between Jordan and the PLO. It was not the kind of signal that we were waiting for, especially in the wake of the uprising that erupted in the West Bank and Gaza Strip last month.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Vital talks on pan-Arab bodies

AN eight-member Arab League committee today opens a meeting in Amman to examine the conditions of pan-Arab organisations and help tidy them over their present difficulties. This meeting, to be held under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, is of paramount importance because rectifying the course of these organisations means further strengthening the Arab League and giving impetus to joint Arab economic action.

The ministerial committee, chaired by the acting prime minister of Lebanon, Salim Al Hoss, groups highly skilled economic experts who are bound to help find real solutions for Arab League organisations which had been encountering financial problems and find a formula for better performance of the Arab League organisation as a whole. This step is important because it paves the way for a successful task by various Arab organisations, something which gives momentum to inter-Arab solidarity.

It is hoped that this committee which will take three days to accomplish its mission will come up with solutions to problems and serve as an example for more and wider cooperation among various Arab institutions and the achievement of stronger solidarity within the Arab Nation.

Al Dustour: Hopes for collective action

THE acting prime minister of Lebanon, Dr. Salim Al Hoss, reflected the feelings of the Lebanese people when he said that they appreciate Jordan's stand towards the internal Lebanese conflict and His Majesty King Hussein's endeavours for finding proper solutions for their problems. Dr. Hoss, who chairs a committee entrusted with promoting the work of Arab League organisations, said the Lebanese people consider Jordan as the closest Arab country to Lebanon and one that understands their problems in their right perspective.

The committee that meets today faces a real hard task, but meeting here in the wake of a successful Arab summit should give it better chance for success in trying to improve the work of Arab League organisations. Promoting the work and performance of these organisations means bringing Arab states closer together through joint social and economic action which is bound to enhance solidarity among Arab states at this crucial moment.

Success achieved by these organisations would no doubt be reflected positively on the attitudes and stands of the Arab countries because these organisations had been set up to help achieve the Arab people's aspirations and strengthen the Arab League's stand.

Sawt Al Shaab: The shoe is on the other foot

THE Israeli defence minister, Yitzhak Rabin, has demanded an end to what he called "Palestinian terrorism" so that Israel could call off its plans for deporting Arab youths from their homeland for taking part in the recent anti-Israeli demonstrations. Rabin has forgotten that it is the Israeli authorities which continue to practise terrorist activity against the Palestinian people, and that Israel's atrocities have been condemned world-wide. Rabin should remember that the United Nations has repeatedly condemned Israel's annexation of Arab land and its drive to Judaize Arab territory and evict Arab people from their homeland.

The international community has deplored all Israeli practices against the defenceless population in Palestine and other parts of the Arab World exposed to Israel's aggression. Rabin seems to have forgotten that the Palestinian people's lands have been usurped by his forces and that Arab territory had been annexed by force of arms and that Israeli forces continue to commit barbaric actions against the Arab people — killing children, women and innocent people.

Rabin's threats would never deter the Arab people from continuing the struggle for freedom.

1988 — a year to invest for Mideast peace

By Waleed Sadi

IF THE political and military environments projected for the Middle East in the course of the new year are still unfavourable for convening the proposed international peace conference on the Middle East, that does not mean that the parties concerned should sit tight throughout 1988 waiting for a breakthrough to occur. Rather the time provided for the parties in the year 1988 should be put to a positive interim use on the basis of which other steps and measures can be taken at a future date to be determined by the ensuing events and international and regional circumstances.

Paradoxically, any interim solution for Gaza Strip offers the first opportunity for the start of chain of events and decisions which could propel other steps and measures that in turn could accelerate the peace process in our region. A mere 300 square kilometres and very densely populated with nearly 650,000 Palestinian Arabs, the Gaza Strip has acquired the unenviable reputation of not being wanted by any state party in the Middle East. Often seen as an area heavily infested with emotionally over-charged people prone to violence to express their national aspirations, the Gaza Strip has become "ungovernable" as far as Israel is concerned. Such a "negative situation" can become the "positive situation" which could snowball into something more ambitious in terms of solutions to the occupied Arab territories.

To begin with, the status of the Gaza Strip is curiously ambiguous. Upon the termination of the British mandate over Palestine in 1948, control over that territory was transferred to Egypt, which was locked up in a state of war with Israel till 1979 when it signed with Israel the Camp David accords. With the advent of the peace agreement, Israeli troops withdrew from

Egyptian territory but maintained its "occupation" of Gaza Strip. Yet, with the lapse of the state of war between Israel and Egypt, the political and legal status of the Gaza Strip became curious. The area is not and never was part of "Israel" as such. Furthermore, Israel does not make protestations to the effect that the Gaza Strip is part of Israel and has not even contemplated its annexation. Interestingly enough, there is an apparent meeting of the minds between the Likud and Labour parties in Israel on the need to keep away the inhabitants of the Gaza Strip from the main stream of Israeli body politics, especially because they are projected to reach the one million mark by the end of this century.

Under these circumstances, any interim solution offered to the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip could serve as an opener or catalyst for further and additional interim solutions on the long road to a complete and final resolution of the Israeli occupation of Arab territories. This is not to mention that any interim solution would provide the necessary psychological and political breakthrough that the parties in the region are anxiously waiting for. It would serve as a beacon of hope that a solution between Israel and its neighbours is probable if not imminent. Besides, any such interim solution would be tantamount to a testing period for any other similar solutions that could be envisaged for the rest of the occupied Arab territories. A satisfactory application of any such an interim solution to the Gaza Strip would surely allay fears and suspicions on the both sides of the fence and put to rest all remnants of scepticisms about the genuine prospects for peace between the antagonists in the Middle East.

As Egypt "enjoys" peace conditions with Israel on practically fronts, it would be in order to contemplate the restoration of status quo ante in the Gaza Strip and have this territory once again an Egyptian "trusteeship" pending the final resolution of its future. Of course, there will be formidable problems to surmount to overcome, especially security considerations when and if such Egyptian "control" of the Gaza area is reinstated. Most probably Egypt will be reluctant to take on this responsibility once again. The price tag to this initiative would be exorbitant, to say the least. But in view of the high stakes involved in this proposal one should not expect the international community from investing in politically and economically to make it as viable as possible. All any such "reestablishment" of Arab control and order over an important Arab territory as the Gaza Strip would constitute a real "movement" in the direction of peaceful resolution of the Palestinian case and the Arab-Israeli conflict. This is not to mention the fact that any successful application of this limited and interim solution would help to diffuse the over-charged situation in the occupied Arab territories as a whole.

Should 1988 become the year of interim solutions for the occupied territories, the succeeding years could become the years of permanent solutions. It behoves all the parties concerned therefore to invest in peace in the Middle East in the course of the year 1988 by setting into motion initiatives or schemes which could advance the process of peace in the Middle East in the most practical way. Interim solutions and piecemeal approaches to the occupied territories could be just the right course of action to pursue till the international conference is convened.

'Sabbah shows a sensitivity for the complexities of the Middle East'

ROME — On the surface, the retirement of Italian Giacomo Giuseppe Beltritti, the Latin patriarch of Jerusalem, and his replacement by a local-born appointee, Michel Sabbah of Nazareth, would seem to be in line with Vatican policy and ecumenical council directives. At 77, the patriarch was long overdue for retirement and all over the world today, the aging, Italian-dominated ecclesiastical hierarchy is being replaced by younger priests. Roman Catholicism aims at removing any surviving association of "mission" with colonialism, and therefore prefers the "acculturation" of religion through the creation of locally staffed church positions, from top to bottom.

The Vatican is thus correct in stating that "not political but religious and pastoral considerations" are behind the nomination of Monsignor Sabbah. This, however, does not contradict or exclude other equally important truths.

Vatican observers have noted that the timing of this appointment to coincide with Arab unrest in Israel and in the territories is significant. "It would have been easy to delay the appointment for a few months," writes the Vatican correspondent for *Il Giornale Nuovo*.

"It is therefore legitimate to see in the Vatican's decision a confirmation of its position on the Palestinian question. It is well known that the Holy See declares itself favourably disposed to the

right of Palestinians to have a land of their own."

Another consideration is the Vatican's long-standing need for a valid Catholic mediator in the Arab world. Hilariion Capucci, the Catholic Melchite bishop imprisoned in Jerusalem for arms-running for the PLO and released following a personal request by Pope Paul VI in 1977, has, says *Il Giornale*, "...rightly or wrongly, up to now, assumed the popularly attributed role of representing the Palestinian Catholics... in an anti-Israeli key."

There are signs that even the Vatican has come to feel that Capucci's excessive political activism (constantly belying the Vatican's promise to Israel in 1977 that he would be relegated to purely pastoral duties) has disqualified him in the role of mediator.

In Sabbah, the Vatican has acquired a spokesman and mediator of entirely different stature for the Middle East, and a point of reference for Arab Catholics. In talks he has had with Italian and foreign journalists since his arrival in Rome on Wednesday, the new appointee shows a sensitivity regarding the complexities of the Middle East scene. He has come for his installation ceremony that will take place on Epiphany, January 6, at St. Peter's.

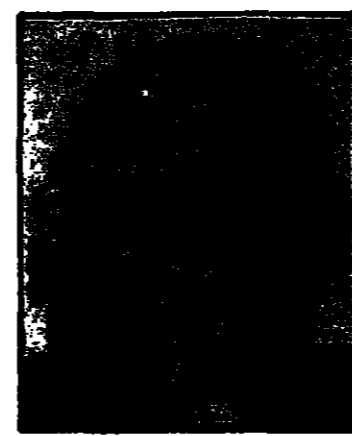
The national Catholic daily, *Avvenire*, this week published an interview in which Sabbah speaks of the many levels of religious relations existing in

Israel, "not only with one's faithful but... with the other Christian confessions and other religions as well. The local populations are mostly Jewish and Muslim. From a strictly religious point of view, relations are very good, taking the form of highest respect; but it is inevitable for one to slip from the religious level to the political, since we are speaking of a state religion."

Asked to specify some political problems, he replied that he preferred not to because "things get very complicated. At the most, I can say that this region suffers from a lack of peace. My hope is that men of good faith will collaborate to achieve peace. Up to now they have not done so."

Capucci — whom Sabbah has, at least up to now, not visited — is staging a hunger strike, consuming only a glass of water and a glass of milk per day, at the Rome headquarters of the Arab League.

On December 20, he participated, along with a 50-person delegation including 11 Arab ambassadors and a PLO representation in an anti-Israel demonstration at St. Peter's Square during the pope's Sunday general audience. The pope, referring to "that land where Jesus was born" said "that land cannot continue to be a theatre of violence, of contrast and injustice, with suffering for those populations to whom I feel particularly close. Let us turn to God with our prayers so that the parties involved and whoever is capable of collaborating will



Michel Sabbah

put an end to this violence."

Capucci, that day, announced he "hoped to be received by Mgr. Achille Silvestrini, secretary of the Vatican's Council for Public Affairs." He was, however, not received, and 10 days later, Sabbah's nomination was announced.

Capucci continues to make statements to the press. His hunger strike is based on the statement "that thousands of my Palestinian brothers have been arrested and put into concentration camps surrounded by barbed wire, just like what happened in the Auschwitz concentration camp, left in the cold, in the rain, without any rights. This violence and this repression must cease."

Sabbah's approach is less outspoken. He said he had followed recent events in Israel by watching television in Amman, and "suffered for my Palestinian brothers" — *The Jerusalem Post*.

Iran and Iraq take heaviest toll of Gulf shipping in 1987

BAHRAIN (R) — Iran and Iraq, deadlocked on the battlefield, turned the Gulf into the most dangerous stretch of water in the world in 1987 and wreaked their heaviest toll on merchant shipping.

The two sides hit at least 178 vessels and killed 108 seamen during the year in the most sustained and savage attacks on shipping in the seven-year-long Gulf conflict.

Lloyd's shipping agents of London reported 34 vessels attacked in December, the worst month in the entire war.

"At this rate, we won't have too many ships left in the Gulf," said one regional shipping source.

"It's getting very nasty and very bloody."

In 1986, the toll was 80 ships hit and 52 sailors killed. Altogether Lloyd's tallied 447 ships damaged in hostilities since the war spilled over into the seaways in May 1981.

Iraq has been flying air strikes against Iran's shuttle tanker fleet trying to ferry oil out of the Gulf in a determined bid to choke off exports that finance Tehran's war machine.

Iran has been retaliating against neutral shipping because Iraq no longer exports its oil through waterway, dubbed "missile alley."

Iraq pipes most of its oil out through Turkey and Saudi Arabia. Iran's gunboats come up alongside tankers and cargo ships, raking them at point-blank range with machineguns and rocket-propelled grenades.

The last confirmed attack was on Christmas night, when an Iranian boat sprayed bullets into the 20,467-tonne Saudi tanker *Nejmat Al Petro* just off the United Arab Emirates.

Iraq reported three strikes along the Iranian coast in the closing few days of 1987, but no hits were confirmed by independent shipping sources.

Some ships have been attacked several times. The world's largest tanker, the 564,739-tonne *Seawise Giant* used by Iran as a storage vessel at the mouth of the gulf, was hit by Iraqi jets in October, and again in December.

Foreign casualties were not confined to merchant fleets.

The U.S. frigate *Stark* was attacked by an Iraqi jet on May 17 and 35 American sailors died when an Exocet missile struck home. The Iraqis said their pilot mistook the warship for an Iranian tanker.

The incident internationalised the conflict and led to a major buildup of the U.S. fleet in the Gulf. In July, American warships started escorting Kuwaiti tankers reflagged with the U.S. flag to deter Iranian attacks.

The start of the escort operations led to a rash of mines in the shipping lanes. Kuwait and the United States accused Iran of laying the mines, which damaged at least seven ships.

Pretoria's all-out restrictions fail to stifle black and white anti-apartheid voices

By David Crary
The Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG — An expanding array of laws and emergency regulations restricts dissent in South Africa, but opponents of the government still find ways to make their feelings known.

Theatre companies stage hard-hitting protest plays, political cartoonists ridicule the president, clergymen pray for detainees at Christmas services, black township residents withhold rent.

The government, which has jailed thousands of its opponents and outlawed many forms of protest, says it believes in the concept of free speech but will not tolerate calls for overthrow of the existing political system.

Home Affairs Minister Stoffel Botha, in charge of censorship and press regulations, said recently that total freedom of expression could be dangerous because many blacks were "exceedingly vulnerable to simplistic ideology, agitation and inflammatory speech."

Regulations imposed under the 18-month-old state of emergency prohibit calls for consumer boycotts, civil disobedience and various other forms of protest.

Other laws restrict reporting about the security forces, bar a range of "subversive" statements, require permission to hold outdoor meetings, and allow government censors to ban publications, films, plays and songs.

But to those with sufficient determination and imagination, outlets for dissent remain. Among them:

— The courts. Suits filed against the police sometimes produce out-of-court payments from the law and order ministry, which activists depict as tacit admissions of improper police conduct. Even when the suits fail, court proceedings provide a forum for witnesses to publicize accusations against authorities with full immunity.

— The arts. Although censors ban many works, there is still room for strong protest. A book called "Two Dogs and Freedom" contains drawings, by black children, of soldiers firing at township residents. A song by white rock star Johnny Clegg salutes activists who died in detention. A play last month at Johannesburg's biggest theatre complex, "You Can't Stop the Revolution," included graphic film footage of victims of alleged police brutality.

— Campus protest. Increasingly, the predominantly white, English-speaking universities have become centres of anti-government, anti-apartheid activity, including occasional clashes between students and police. In October, 20,000 students and faculty at five campuses demonstrated against new regulations which threaten to reduce government subsidies to the schools unless administrators curtail dissent.

— The press. The major English-language newspapers, although condemned by some militants as pro-capitalist and overly cautious, often run editorials and letters from readers assailing the government and

urging bolder racial reforms. Even more aggressive, despite government threats of closure, is the so-called alternative press, which includes the *Weekly Mail*, produced primarily by whites, and several publications edited by and oriented toward blacks.

— Churches. Several major denominations, including the Roman Catholic, Anglican and Methodist churches, are at the forefront of the anti-apartheid campaign and often hold services with strong political messages. Church leaders like Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu, a black, the Rev. Allan Boesak, the mixed-race president of World Alliance of Reformed Churches, and the Rev. Peter Storey, a white who formerly headed the Methodist Church, are well-known abroad and willing to say things that might land less prominent people in jail.

— Strikes and boycotts. Militant black unions have made clear that they view strikes as a form of political protest, even though labour laws technically limit strikes to workplace disputes. The ongoing rent boycott, although illegal, has spread to dozens of black townships since its start in September 1984 and has cost local authorities as much as \$300 million. Activists say the boycott will continue until the government frees political prisoners and opens negotiations to give full political rights to the voteless black majority.

— Publications. Campaigns. Sometimes risking government wrath, opposition groups can make themselves heard through press

releases and news conferences. Statements from the United Democratic Front, the largest anti-apartheid coalition, appear regularly but no longer are signed. Its two chief spokesmen have been jailed.

One effective campaign was spearheaded by the Detainees Parents Support Committee, a multiracial group, in an effort to win release of detained black children. The campaign won widespread support abroad, and the government, although denying that it bowed to pressure, has freed virtually all detainees under 17 years old.

— Draft resistance. White men face jail terms if they refuse to serve in the military. The government no longer discloses statistics on draft resisters, but those who are prosecuted sometimes speak out against conscription and the deployment of troops in black townships. Ivan Toms, a doctor who served in the army for two years but has refused to report for subsequent training camps, said after his arrest in November: "One has to make a stand in a civil war. One has to take sides."

— Satire. The country's best-known satirist, Pieter-Dirk Uys, built his reputation through stage revues that lampooned President P.W. Botha, among other targets. Trying a new tactic, Uys recently published a collection of excerpts from Botha's speeches.

One sample: "Where in the whole wide world can you find a more just society than South Africa has?"

With water & ice
..and some one
you care for.



الجزيرة الأردنية

Jordan gallops ahead with thoroughbreds

By Monika Warich

Special to the Jordan Times
THE BEDOUIN tradition of keeping a horse "in the family" is still alive in parts of Jordan but with the automobile gaining ground, even in the very remote areas, the number of horses here has been dwindling rapidly.

However, five new studs and one riding club were opened in the country between 1980 and 1984. "This is surely part of a general tendency to revive and cultivate the national heritage and culture," says Mobei Eddin Qandour, owner of the Kabarda Stud and Jordan Turf Club which were established in 1982.

Endeavours to preserve and enhance the Arab horse in Jordan date back to the 1940s when first efforts to save the purebred horse and to restart a stud were made by the late King Abdullah, who founded the Royal Jordanian Stables and Stud (RJSS).

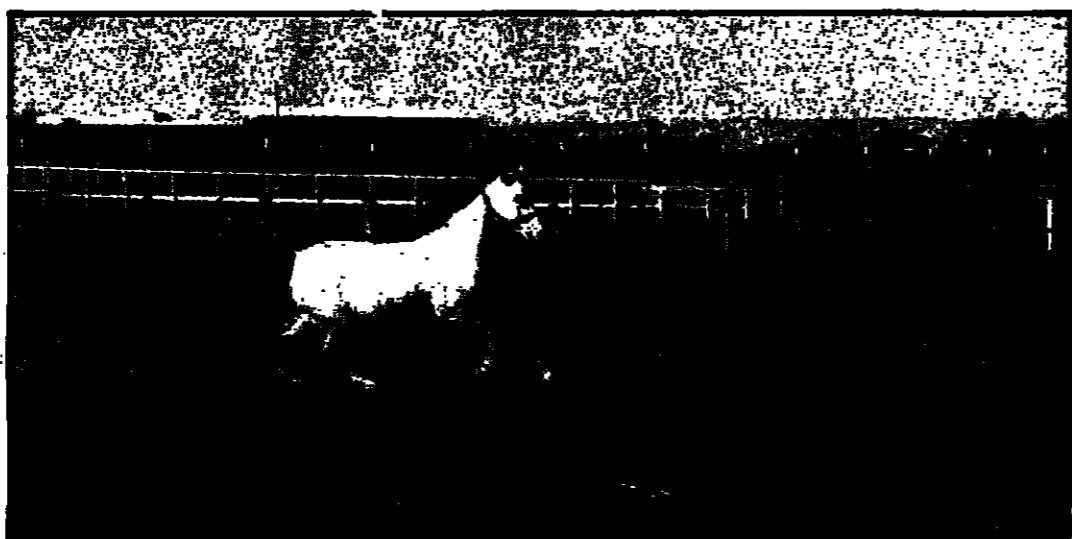
"The main aim of the RJSS is to preserve the purebred Arab horse in Jordan," says His Majesty King Hussein's daughter Princess Alia who has been managing the stud with its 65 registered Arab horses for some years now.

In the stud's early years, the Princess relates, it was quite difficult to trace the few Arab horses left, who, with their owners, had been widely scattered after the political turmoil in the region before Jordan gained independence in 1946.

Gazella, one of their first breeding mares, was discovered when she was ploughing a field by the roadside by Mr. and Mrs. Lopez, a couple from Gibraltar who at the time were building up the stud, Princess Alia recalls.

The white mare, though meagre and overworked, immediately struck them as a very fine Arab purebred. That was in 1960 and the three year old horse was bought. She subsequently produced a great number of foals and today her beautiful white son Abdullah is one of the stud's most valuable horses.

The work of the RJSS is very important because the traditional breeding of pure Arabs is dying out. Her Royal Highness says. Today, the Bedouins of Bahrain and Oman are probably the only ones who continue the purebred Arab tradition in the customary



way within the Arab World.

Horses in Jordan are mostly bred for racing or showjumping and mixbreeds are preferred because they are faster and can jump higher than purebred Arabs, Princess Alia explained. But in spite of all that the features and the character of the Arab horse are still cherished by the modern Jordanians and indeed have found lovers all over the world. In Great Britain, Germany, France, the Soviet Union, Spain and the USA, to name just a few, there are numerous private and state studs specialising in Arab horse breeding.

The Arab horse above all is praised for its outstanding beauty; A compact, short body, tail set high on the back, small ears, big low-set eyes with luscious eyelashes, large round jaws and

small nozzles are all believed to make the perfect Arab. They are also thought to be more attached to human beings than other breeds, Princess Alia added.

Some of them even became famous like "Al Mokhaladah" (the Immortal), Prophet Mohammad's mare.

Tradition has it that the Prophet, who was a great lover of horses, once let a flock of mares without drink for several days. Then he opened the paddock, calling each one by her name, and almost all raced towards the water. Only five mares pricked their ears when they were called and came to him — Kullela, Saklawia, Dahma, Abiah and Shweimah. These names are today still used all over the world to denote the five main lines (Alk Hamsa) within the breed.

The Arab horses' origin in itself is not completely clear, but they are believed to have first been bred in the Yemen and the Arabian Peninsula, and that probably dates back over 5,000 years, says Princess Alia.

The relatively small, slightly built horses have enormous endurance and strength due to the dense structure of their bones. Cross country and long distance rides are consequently their strong points. They also make good mounts for people not necessarily aiming at winning competitions and are often more comfortable to ride because of their light conformation and smaller size than larger breeds.

But in any case no one should ride without the proper training and instruction for the sake of both rider and horse; and chil-

dren in particular should always be supervised while dealing with horses or ponies, Mr. Qandour emphasised. He is training young Jordanians at the premises of the Jordan Turf Club with the aim of — during the coming ten years — forming a Jordanian team to take part in international competitions, with the help of two English instructors to arrive early in 1988.

Horse-riding as a modern sport has been developing only recently in Jordan. The first riding club in the country was opened in 1983, but most of its 90 horses are Arab mixbreeds and the style of riding is definitely European.

In the club's first years almost all active members were European or American, most of them expatriates, now the majority of the riders are Arab, says the club's owner Hani Bisharat.

Mr. Bisharat personally grew up with horses which his grandfather and father used to breed, but the young Jordanians now joining the riding club have no such background and are almost all total newcomers to the sport.

Princess Alia thinks it is very encouraging for her to see that, through their contact with Arab horses as breeders or sportsmen, many people all over the world have become genuinely interested in the Arab countries, their people and history.

International recognition of the work of the RJSS came in the late 1970s when RJSS joined the World Arab Horse Organisation (WAHO) based in England. The studbook was opened in 1980. Most Arab countries have now achieved the WAHO membership.

But the country with the largest Arab horse breeding programmes is still the United States, and it is big business there. Prime stallions have been known to fetch up to \$5 million there, says Mr. Qandour, while prices in Jordan with about JD 5,000 for a (registered) mare and JD 3,500 for a colt are comparatively moderate, he added.

In Jordan there are presently about 100 horses registered with the WAHO, 65 at the RJSS and 21 at the Kabarda Stud, which means that they can be used for breeding and also take part in international Arab horse shows.

Photos: courtesy Kabarda Stud, the Jordan Turf Club and DPA



Foetal organ transplants spark hope, clash over ethics

By Christopher Hanson
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Imagine this: A woman whose father is senile has herself artificially inseminated with his sperm. She becomes pregnant and, according to plan, has an abortion several months later.

From the dead foetus doctors transplant cells that secrete a memory-enhancing chemical into the father's brain.

His ability to learn and remember improves markedly.

The tissue match is ideal due to genetic similarities and there is little danger of his body rejecting the cells.

This hypothetical case sounds as if it came from a macabre science-fiction novel, but scientists say recent experimental advances may make such a scenario feasible before long.

The very possibility has sparked a debate over medical ethics.

Researchers have been transplanting tissue from dead foetuses — thus far obtained from routine abortions — in tests aimed at helping victims of Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes and other ailments.

Scientists say this research is promising and the potential be-

nefits could be incalculable.

"Growing foetuses for spare parts — I think it can be done. It's not a technical question, it's a moral question," Dr. Antonin Scommegna, who heads obstetrics and gynecology at Chicago's Michael Reese Hospital, said in an interview.

Jeremy Rifkin of the Liberal Foundation on Economic Trends lobby group says that unless this work is tightly regulated it risks ushering in a brave new world where babies are "farmed" to die, their organs harvested like crops.

Although the foetuses made available to researchers have come only from abortions done independently, critics fear the day could be coming when they are specifically conceived and aborted for experimental purposes.

"Potential uses of foetal tissue make the temptation to conceive with the intent to abort almost inevitable," said biotechnology expert Emanuel Thorne, co-author of a U.S. congressional study of an emerging human tissue industry.

Dr. John Fletcher, a former National Institute of Health official who heads the University of Virginia's biomedical ethics department, told Reuters of a recent case in which a mother prop-

osed becoming pregnant so the unborn child's bone marrow could be transplanted into her one-year-old son, who could not survive without a transplant of compatible bone marrow.

In another case, he said, a mother of an eight-year-old dying of kidney failure suggested that she become pregnant and have an abortion so a kidney could be transplanted into the boy.

Arthur Caplan, a medical ethics specialist at the University of Minnesota, cited a case in which a woman with severe diabetes wanted to abort and use pancreas cells from her unborn child for transplants to help her condition.

Another woman proposed being artificially inseminated with the seed of her father, an Alzheimer's victim, so genetically matched foetal cells could be used to treat him.

In each case, these experts said, doctors rejected the idea as unethical and medically unsound.

"We don't want a situation where we end any human life solely to benefit others," Caplan said in an interview.

Laws could be passed to prohibit conceiving children simply for use in organ transplants, but Thorne said enforcement might be

difficult. "What is illegal in the United States might not be illegal in another country."

"A transplant industry based upon foetal tissue technology could dwarf the present organ transplant industry."

Abortion foes object even to using foetuses from routine abortions for transplant research.

"Transplant organs must be very fresh, which requires close cooperation between the (abortionist) and the doctor harvesting the organ," said Douglas Johnson of the National Right to Life Committee, a private lobby group.

A foetus must be certified dead before organs are taken, but Johnson said it was often an open question whether the foetus was really dead, even if it were declared to be.

Doctors conducting the research say the foetuses in each case are dead before transplants begin.

Fletcher says the hope of harvesting organs must never influence the method chosen for an abortion but that such a restriction would create a medical conflict: Organ experiments require that a foetus be delivered whole, but it is generally better for the mother if a foetus is broken apart in the womb.

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S. African feud continues with 10 more black deaths

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Ten more blacks have died in heightened feuding in Natal province and a leading black newspaper said on Sunday that the fighting cast a grim shadow over the dream of a post-apartheid South Africa.

In a statement on political unrest, police reported 10 deaths of blacks on Saturday in Natal, where 75 people were killed in December. The toll was one of the worst since a power struggle erupted a year ago in the black townships of Natal.

Rivalries between the conservative, Zulu-based Inkatha Movement and South Africa's biggest anti-apartheid group, the United Democratic Front (UDF), lie behind the carnage. Support for the two movements overlaps in Natal, home of South Africa's six-million-strong Zulu tribe.

City Press, a Johannesburg newspaper widely read by blacks, said restoring peace in the area was a matter of life and death. Quoting British wartime leader Winston Churchill, it said: "If we quarrel, our children are un-

done."

The editorial reflected growing concern among blacks that the internecine violence was sowing the seeds of conflict in any future black-ruled South Africa.

Church groups estimate that 280 people have died as daily stabbings, shootings and burnings turned townships around the tranquil market town of Pietermaritzburg into South Africa's most notorious killing field.

Police said five men died on Saturday in clashes between two groups in Mpmuza township, three men were stabbed to death in nearby Dedda and a 13-year-old youth and a man died of stab wounds elsewhere in the cluster of poverty-stricken townships near Pietermaritzburg.

The City Press commented on the bloodletting: "It has serious implications for the post-apar-

theid South Africa all men and women of goodwill dream about.

"In the past months Maritzburg (Pietermaritzburg) has slowly been slipping onto the road of anarchy. This road of no return looms large before black South Africa if we cannot find a remedy to what is happening in Maritzburg."

City Press said Inkatha leader Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi and Nobel Peace Prize winner Archbishop Desmond Tutu were fighting a war of words rather than seeking solutions.

Tutu, who has tried to mediate in the fighting, appealed last week to all sides to end what he termed a ghastly spiral of revenge killings.

Buthelezi, who says Tutu is sympathetic to the UDF, accused him of being linked with the "labyrinth of intrigue which purposefully sets out to perpetuate the violence."

Efforts to negotiate peace have so far been dogged by distrust between Inkatha and the UDF, which both oppose apartheid but clash over tactics.

NATO summit planned

LONDON (AP) — The leaders of NATO's 16 member nations are to meet in March for a summit about European Defence in the wake of U.S. arms reductions, the Sunday Times reported.

The newspaper said the meeting will be the first of its kind in six years and that North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) heads of government have met only twice in the past 10 years.

The newspaper said the meeting "aims to coordinate the alliance's policy on arms cuts and quieten fears that the United States will reduce its commitment to Europe" as it pulls out intermediate-range nuclear missiles in accordance with a pact signed in December by U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

"Its purpose is also to reassure public opinion in Western Europe that NATO is in full agreement and not on a slippery slope toward nuclear disarmament," the newspaper said.

"Pressure for the summit has come largely from the Europeans, with Mrs. (British Prime Minister Margaret) Thatcher and Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany leading the way," said the Sunday Times.

"The European leaders believe a summit is essential, not only to endorse the medium-range treaty signed in Washington last month, but also to ensure that the superpowers' rush toward arms control does not leave Western Europe at a disadvantage."

In a separate development, London's Sunday Express reported the United States plans to cancel millions of dollars of defence spending that had been planned to be spent in Britain in 1988.

The newspaper said the cuts will be announced on Wednesday and that they will be the "tip of the iceberg."

The report said the cuts will include \$130 million from the \$564 million allotted for developing a new version of the British Hawker Harrier "jump jet" that the United States also uses.

There will also be cuts in buildings at American bases in Britain, the report said.

It added: "Though the savings are tiny in relation to the huge cost of maintaining American forces in Europe, they will certainly provoke unease throughout NATO, especially as similar cuts are being imposed on American bases in West Germany and Italy."

A British Defence Ministry spokesman said the ministry was unaware of such cuts and Britain still intended to carry out its part of the Harrier project.

Japan to build carrier to protect sea lanes

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's Defence Agency is considering development of an aircraft carrier and a destroyer equipped with the sophisticated Aegis missile system to protect its sea lanes, a newspaper reported Sunday.

The Yomiuri Shimbun said it obtained a document showing the Defence Agency plans to build an aircraft carrier modeled on the Invincible class used by the British Navy.

2 quakes shake southern California

PASADENA, California (AP) — A small earthquake rumbled beneath a desert area Saturday hours after an aftershock of the Oct. 1 quake shook a Los Angeles suburb, authorities said.

No damage was reported Saturday.

A tremor measuring 3.9 on the

50 Brazilian gold miners said killed during protest

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Miners' leaders said at least 50 prospectors died in a clash with military police in a gold-rush town in northern Brazil, but police put the death toll at three.

"I have never heard of a massacre equal to this in Brazil," Joao Tadeu, a union official at the gold-mining site of Serra Pelada, said in a telephone interview.

"There are at least 50 dead," he said on Saturday.

However, a federal police spokesman, Wilson Alfredo Perpetuo, sent to Serra Pelada to investigate Tuesday's incident, said the official death toll was three but there were rumours of many more dead in the area in the Amazon Basin, some 1,300 kilometres north west of Brasilia.

He said police used force to end a miners' blockade of a road and rail bridge over the Tocantins River near the Serra Pelada site. The miners were trying to press the government to release funds to make the dangerous Serra Pelada pit safer.

Tadeu said armed police

charged the 5,000 miners on the bridge from both sides and opened fire. He said many jumped into the river, 80 metres below.

Initial reports from the remote area spoke of only two dead. Nelson Marabuto, a member of a congressional inquiry into Serra Pelada, has alleged that nearly 100 miners died.

Mr. Marabuto, a former president of the National Indian Agency Funai, has made statements to the press accusing Para State Governor Helio Gueiros of being responsible for the deaths.

Mr. Gueiros said on Saturday that Mr. Marabuto's allegations "do not deserve to be taken seriously."

Difficult communications with Serra Pelada made it difficult for journalists to gather information. One local radio station went off the air after the clash.

Fifteen months ago there were about 40,000 men and their families living at Serra Pelada, the most famous symbol of Brazil's gold rush.

Nkomo becomes senior minister in Zimbabwe

HARARE (R) — President Robert Mugabe has completed a series of political and constitutional changes by bringing former opposition leader Joshua Nkomo back into Zimbabwe's cabinet.

Announcing the government shuffle on Saturday, Mr. Mugabe said Mr. Nkomo would be one of three senior ministers in the president's office, overseeing several ministries, including local government and rural and urban development.

"We are now trying to consolidate national unity by working together," Mr. Nkomo said.

Mr. Mugabe became Zimbabwe's first executive president on New Year's Eve. The post of prime minister, which he had held since independence seven years ago, was abolished.

Mr. Nkomo's return follows

the merger of the country's two main political parties, whose intermittent rivalry dated back to their leaders' uneasy alliance as guerrilla chiefs fighting white settler rule in the breakaway British colony of Rhodesia.

Under the new set-up, the former opposition leader will rank just behind Vice-President Simon Muzenda, Mr. Mugabe's deputy.

The shuffle gave additional powers to Finance Minister Bernard Chidzero, who will oversee all economic ministries and planning.

Mr. Mugabe gave the defence portfolio, which he had held himself, to Enos Nkala, a bitter enemy of Mr. Nkomo believed to have opposed the merger of the ruling ZANU-PF with Mr. Nkomo's PF-ZAPU.

1,200 evacuated after oil spill into U.S. river

JEFFERSON, Pennsylvania (R) — A massive oil spill from a factory near Pittsburgh stretched along 24 kilometres of the Monongahela River has forced the evacuation of 1,200 people because of the risk of fire, officials said on Sunday.

"There's been a catastrophic release of heating oil type fuel," Fire Department spokesman Bob Ferguson said. "The storage tank collapsed and dumped this stuff all over the place."

He said the tank contained

three million gallons (11,356,200 litres) of heating oil but not all had spilled into the river.

A Coast Guard spokesman said a million-gallon (3,785,400-litre) petrol tank next to the ruptured tank had also leaked some fuel into the river. The cause of the leaks on Saturday evening was not known.

About 1,200 people were evacuated from the area because of the possibility of fire, police said, although below-freezing weather reduced the danger.

U.S. aides to hold talks with Afghan rebels

WASHINGTON (AP) — Two high-ranking U.S. officials left Saturday for Pakistan, where they will hold talks on issues including Afghanistan, the State Department said.

Undersecretary of State Michael Armacost was accompanied by Robert Oakley, Middle East director of the National Security Council staff, said State Department spokesman Rudi Boone.

The State Department said last week that the officials would discuss a wide range of issues, but "certainly there will be a large emphasis on Afghanistan."

The Washington Post reported in Sunday's editions that Mr. Armacost has asked to see senior Afghan resistance leaders in

Pakistan, including Maulavi Yunis Khalis, chairman of the Islamic Alliance of Afghan Mujahadeen.

The newspaper, quoting administration officials, said President Ronald Reagan sent a message reassuring the rebel leaders that the United States will continue and even strengthen its support for the resistance fighters as long as the Soviet Union continues to press its battle in Afghanistan.

Mr. Reagan met with Khalis and several other Afghan resistance leaders at the White House last month, and made a similar pledge of U.S. support.

Last week, the president marked the eighth anniversary of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan by calling upon the Soviet

Union to "promptly and irrevocably" withdraw its forces from Afghanistan.

The United States has long pressed for Soviet withdrawal, and Mr. Reagan brought the subject up during his summit meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev last month, urging him to set a timetable for disengagement.

Mr. Armacost said Mr. Gorbachev declined to provide the United States with a timetable, but offered to curb Red Army actions once the pullout starts.

"He said they would not engage in military operations except self-defence," Mr. Armacost said on Dec. 22. "It was something, as far as I am aware, that they have never said before."

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Reagan gives award to Bob Hope

PALM DESERT, California (R) — President Reagan paid tribute to American comedian Bob Hope on Saturday night, presenting him with the first "America's Hope" Award in honour of a "lifetime of service and achievement." "It is appropriate that the first award should go to a gentleman who has practised the liveliest of arts — comedy — for over six happy decades," Mr. Reagan said. He said the 84-year-old British-born comedian's name described his life, "and where there is life there is hope."

Reagan spoke to political and Hollywood celebrities at the dedication of a \$20 million Bob Hope Cultural Centre in the Californian town of Palm Desert. Mr. Reagan is on holiday in nearby Palm Springs. "Naming a cultural centre for me is like naming a monastery for Gary Hart," Hope said, alluding to the Democratic presidential contender who returned to the race after dropping out when his relationship with model Donna Rice was publicised.

Australian woman burns children, herself

MELBOURNE (R) — A woman burnt herself and her two children to death after dousing the three of them with petrol in their backyard, Australian police said on Sunday. They said the woman, in her thirties, and a one-year-old daughter were found dead on Saturday in Melbourne's St. Albans suburb. A seven-year-old daughter died in hospital on Sunday. Police did not release the names of the dead and said the woman had recently fallen out with her common law husband.

Bodies of slaves buried alive discovered

PEKING (R) — Archaeologists have found tombs in the suburbs of Shanghai containing the bodies of four slaves who were buried alive when their masters died 4,500 years ago. The discovery is the earliest known example in China of such burials and indicates that slavery began at least 400 years earlier than previously thought, the New China News Agency said on Sunday. In one of the three tombs, dated to the Liangzhu culture, two bodies lay under the feet of a third. The two had their hands tied behind them, their legs twisted and heads angled upwards. "This discovery seems to conjure a scene of the buried struggling, resisting, calling for help," the agency said. Jade ornaments, believed to be symbols of power, adorned the remains of the bodies believed to be those of the slave masters.

China brewing too much beer

PEKING (R) — China, traditionally a nation of tea-drinkers, is brewing too much beer. The China Daily Business Weekly said on Sunday the country had leaped into sixth place among world beer producers by brewing over five million tonnes in 1987, an increase of more than a quarter over 1986. Zhejiang province in eastern China was in danger of failing to produce enough grain to eat because farmers were growing more and more barley for beer. "Some specialists have called for a check on growing beer production, warning it may cause excessive cuts in output of grain which is in short supply in China," the newspaper said. Fast growing demand for beer has caused unchecked expansion of production and poorer quality in some areas, Ministry of Commerce officials said.

Trapped women survive on peanuts

SPRINGERVILLE, Arizona (R) — Two women trapped for 10 days in their snowbound car in a remote part of eastern Arizona survived on peanuts and a bread roll, police said. Lisa Barzao, 18, and Jami Goldman, 19, were found on Saturday by snowmobile riders in Apache National Forest south east of Springerville, police said. They were flown to hospital near the state capital of Phoenix, where they were being treated for frostbite. The pair, last seen on Dec. 23 on their way home from a ski trip, took a wrong turn and became stuck in snow 9,500 feet (2,900 metres) up a mountain road closed for the winter, a police spokesman said. They survived sub-zero temperatures by staying inside their car dressed in ski clothes. They had a bread roll and a bag of peanuts with them, he said.

Cicciolina bids for party leadership

BOLOGNA, Italy (AP) — Italy's Radical Party, which led the battle for legalisation of divorce and abortion in the 1970s, opened its annual Congress Saturday with its most celebrated exponent, stripper and blue-movie actress Cicciolina, as a candidate for the party leadership. Announcing her candidacy, Cicciolina, whose victorious topless campaign for parliament last year made her an international celebrity, said: "I win sympathy and this reflects on the party." Posters at the 34th Congress displayed the new Radical logo, featuring the face of Mahatma Gandhi in place of the old symbol of a fist clenching a rose. "With all respect for Gandhi, maybe I'd do better," said 37-year-old Cicciolina, whose real name is Ilona Staller. The Hungarian born star of hard-core porno films said, however, that she does not intend to run for the leadership if the current secretary, Giovanni Negri, stays in office.

Pasternak's name 'cleared of slander'

MOSCOW (AP) — Poet and author Yevgeny Yevtushenko said the late writer Boris Pasternak's name has been cleared of slander in the Soviet Union and there should be no doubt he deserved the 1958 Nobel Prize for Literature. Pasternak, who died in official disgrace in 1960, rejected the prestigious award under pressure from the Soviet government. His sole novel, Doctor Zhivago, was criticised in the Soviet Union because it allegedly sympathised with the aristocracy uprooted by the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution and the four years of civil war that followed. In the past two years, Pasternak has been fully rehabilitated under Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms that encourage reassessment of past official attitudes. Yevtushenko made his comments in a New Year's Day interview with the official TASS news agency. "There should not be any ambiguity about the question of Pasternak's Nobel Prize, he earned it with his entire life and work," Yevtushenko said.

Australian bicentennial kicks off

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Most Australians began celebrating the bicentennial of the continent's settlement by Europeans, but aboriginal activists began what they call a year of mourning. Wreaths were thrown on the beach where British explorer Capt. James Cook landed in 1770. 18 years before the arrival of British convict ships began the continent's colonisation. Prime Minister Bob Hawke was heckled by aborigines, who make up about one per cent of Australia's population of 16 million. Millions of Australians ended the day watching "Australia Live — A Celebration of a Nation," a four-hour live telecast from 70 locations down under and around the world that included the first-ever live feed from Antarctica. "Every Australian will go to bed on the night of Jan. 1 feeling good about Australia, about the last 200 years and about the future," said Bob Phillips, coordinating producer for the Channel 9 Network.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHEARF
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EAST'S TANGLED WEB

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
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♥ 7 3
♦ 6 5 4 2
♣ 9 6

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♥ K Q 10 6
♦ A 8 7 3
♠ A K Q

The bidding:

South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass
Opening lead: Jack of ♠

There is a gamut of deceptive plays involving elaborate falsecards and other maneuvers. Equally effective, however, are those strategies that can be as simple as refusing to win a trick when it is offered. South felt victim to such a trap on today's hand.

Because of his primary controls and body, South felt his hand was too strong for an opening bid of one no trump. As a result, he stretched a trifle for his jump to two no

trump over his partner's one-spade response. North's raise to game was automatic.

West led the top of his club sequence, and declarer could count only five sure winners outside of the spade suit. It seemed a straightforward matter to develop four spade tricks, so declarer ran the nine of spades at trick two. East followed low without a moment's hesitation. Impressed by the "success" of his finesse, South repeated it and East won with his now bare queen. That left declarer severed from dummy, and eventually he had to be satisfied with six tricks when he went after diamonds rather than hearts.

Some observers felt South would have done better had he overtaken the nine of spades with dummy's ten in an attempt to make the defenders think he held a singleton. However, it is unlikely that anyone would jump to two no trump with a singleton in partner's suit; regardless, if East was good enough to duck the nine of spades, he would probably have done the same thing even had an honor been played from the table.

Can we really censure declarer for repeating the spade finesse rather than trying to drop the queen? The odds favored a 4-2 split.